

Filed for intro on 02/02/95
Senate Bill _____
By _____

<PrintHouse> Bill No. House No. HB0584
By McDonald

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13, Chapter 27, to enact the "Tennessee International Trade and Export Development for Agricultural Products Act of 1995".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13 , Chapter 27, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 7 as a new part.

SECTION 2. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee International Trade and Export Development for Agricultural Products Act of 1995".

SECTION 3. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture;
- (2) "Department" means the department of agriculture;
- (3) "Director" means the director of the export trade office in the department of economic and community development; and
- (4) "Small and medium-sized businesses or companies" means those agricultural enterprises with sales not exceeding twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) and net worth not greater than two million dollars (\$2,000,000), seeking to enter foreign markets.

SECTION 4. There is hereby created the international trade and export development for agricultural products advisory council. The advisory council consists of nine (9) members, as follows:

- (1) One (1) state senator appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (2) One (1) state representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (3) The remaining seven (7) members are appointed by the governor from the private sector and shall include at least one (1) person from each of the following backgrounds:
 - (A) Private enterprise agricultural export trading operation;
 - (B) International banking and finance;
 - (C) Freight forwarding and shipping business;
 - (D) International law; and
 - (E) Farming.

In addition, the commissioners of agriculture and economic and community development or their designees shall serve as ex officio voting members of the advisory council.

SECTION 5. The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly and has the following duties and powers:

- (1) Serve as an advocate for promoting and obtaining programs and services that would benefit small and medium sized agricultural enterprises to enter and compete in foreign markets and trade and disseminate pertinent information to the business and financial community;
- (2) Receive reports from the export trade office of the department of economic and community development;
- (3) Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the international, national, state and local level and attempt to make Tennessee agricultural products competitive in an international market by encouraging efforts in education, finance, insurance, and transportation;

(4) Assist other statewide agencies or organizations, both public and private, regarding matters affecting international trade in developing a comprehensive strategy for the encouragement of international trade and export development of agricultural products;

(5) Accept reports from any state authorized funding entity on the effectiveness of the state's efforts in this area; and

(6) File annual reports or more often if necessary with the governor and the speakers of the two (2) houses of the general assembly and the appropriate standing committees.

The director of the export trade office shall serve as executive secretary to the advisory council.

SECTION 6. (a) The members of the advisory council shall receive no compensation for their services, but the members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(b) The advisory council is administratively attached to the department of economic and community development, but for all purposes other than administration is considered independent.

(c) The advisory council may:

(1) Create subcommittees related to its purpose;

(2) Conduct hearings;

(3) Employ staff, subject to the availability of funds;

(4) Enter contracts for technical or professional services, subject to the availability of funds; and

(5) Perform such other duties as are required.

SECTION 7. The commissioners of agriculture and economic development are urged to seek additional funding resources and to create additional positions within the export trade office to implement a sound comprehensive export development strategy, which should include the addition of agricultural export trade specialists. Such strategy includes the elements of education, counseling, promotion, and inter-agency cooperative efforts.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.